forecast for monsoon rainfall. The long range forecast Issued by IMD for this year's South-West monsoon rainfall for the country as a whole as well as for peninsular India was correct.

(b) The Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) is primarily a microwave remote sensing mission, with day and night imaging and cloud penetrating capabilities. Essentially, RISAT provides inputs for agricultural resources survey and disaster management applications and is not designed for rainfall monitoring applications.

Production of flowers for odour and medicinal use

†1213. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the harvest of flowers for odour and medicinal use in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details of centres set up in this regard and the capacity thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to expand the Uttaranchal based centres and to set up new centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Some Central Ministries/Departments/Institutes are supporting various research programmes for the improvement, cultivation and harvest of suitable flowers for odour and medicinal use in the country including Uttaranchal. The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow-a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has established two field stations for research purpose in the State of Uttaranchal, one near Pantnagar in District-Udhamsingh Nagar and the other near Garur Baijnath in District-Bageshwar. These centres have been carrying out research on improvement and utlization of medicinal and aromatic plants in the region alongwith imparting training to the farmers on cultivation of improved varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants. The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Council (TIFAC), an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has commissioned a pilot project entitled Technology dissemination, commercialization and utilization of geranium *(Pelargonium graveolens)* cultivation through processing and value addition of end products in Uttaranchal at bio-village level" through CIMAP, Lucknow. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has supported a project on field demonstration of improved agro-technology including processing of Damask Rose *(Rosa domascena)* and pyrethrum *(Chrysanthemum cinerarifolium)* in Uttaranchal State. A project on conservation and propagation of orchids of medicinal importance has also been supported at the High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre, Srinagar-Garhwal. Two more DBT sponsored projects, on the genetic diversity and large scale propagation methods of two medicinal plants *(Aconitum and Rheum* complex) and on the *in vitro* propagation of four endemic medicinal species of Himalayas *(Arnebio benthami, Angelica glauca, Swertia angustifolia and Saussurea obvallata)* have been recently completed at High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre, Srinagar-Garhwal and the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, respectively. As of now, the Government has no proposal to either expand the existing centres or establish new ones in Uttaranchal for plants of odour and medicinal use.

Functioning of Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre, Nagpur

1214. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre at Nagpur, established in collaboration with Nagpur University during the eighties, by the Department of Science and Technology, equipped with imported instruments worth crores of rupees for research and industrial analysis, is lying idle, thus depriving researchers an opportunity for research analysis;

(b) if so, who is responsible for this; and

(c) when this Centre would become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND